OIPE
NOV 1 5 2004
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

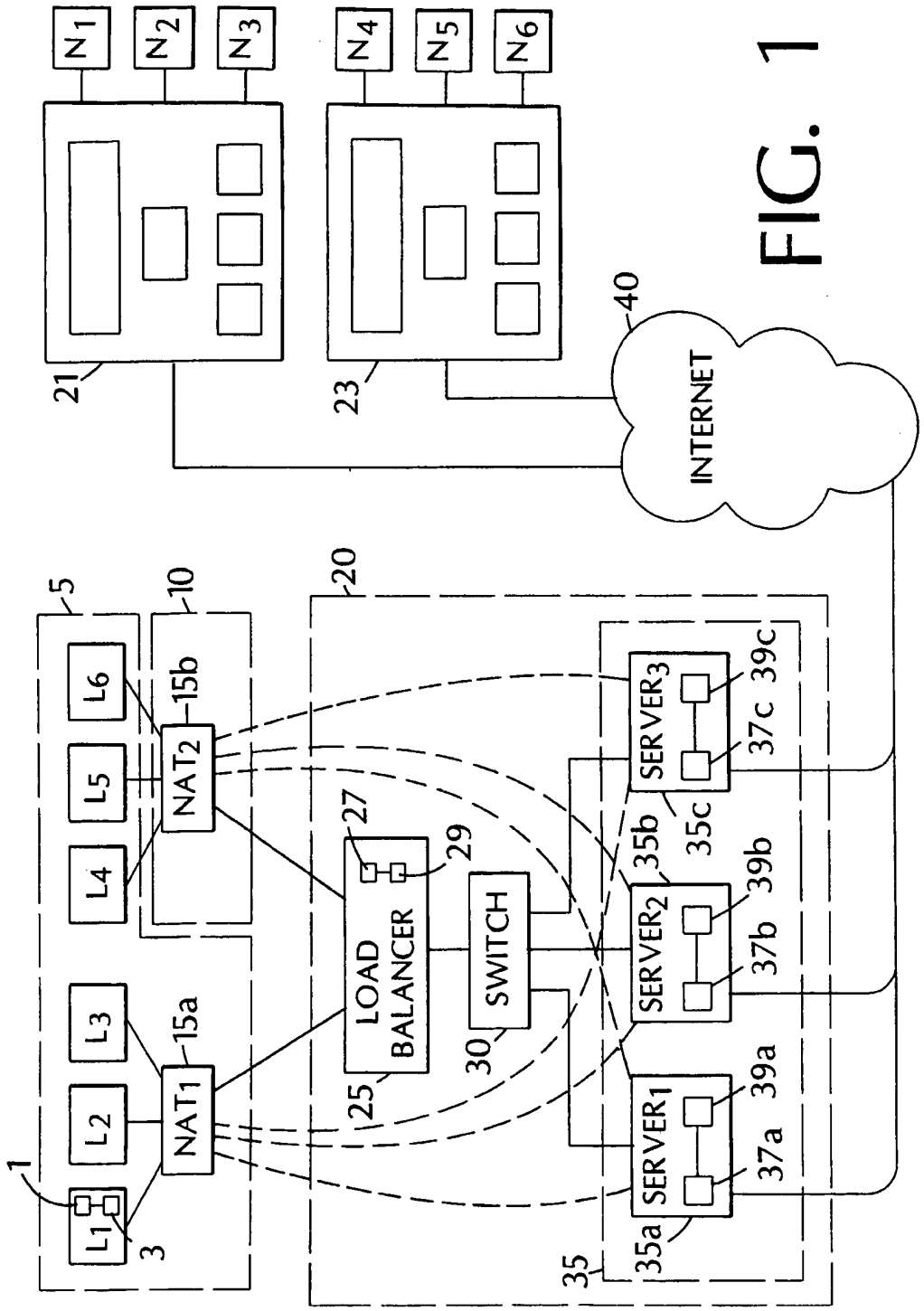

FIG. 1

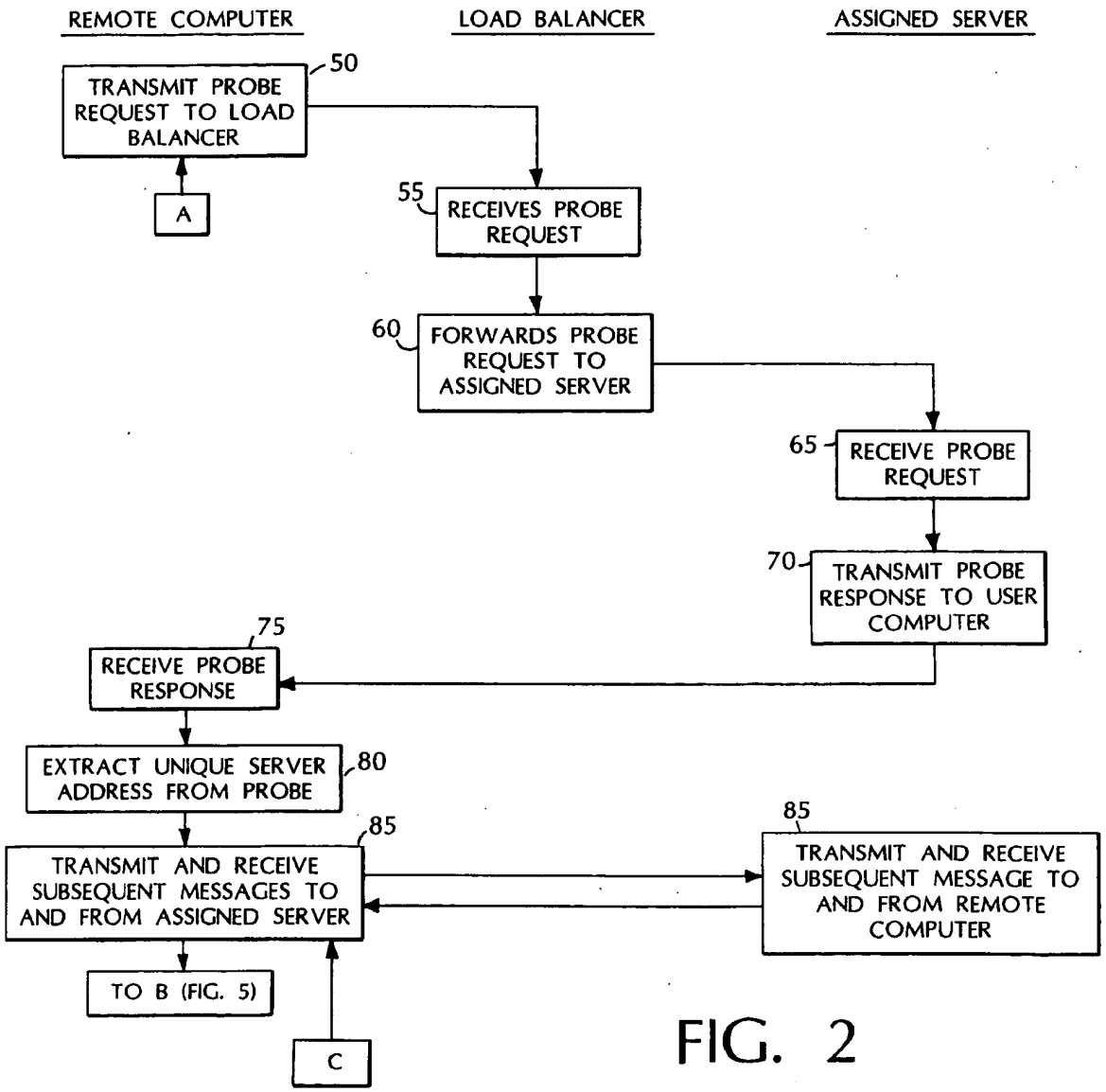
REMOTE COMPUTER
LOAD BALANCER
ASSIGNED SERVER
TRANSMIT PROBE REQUEST TO LOAD BALANCER
50
A
55
RECEIVES PROBE REQUEST
60
FORWARDS PROBE REQUEST TO ASSIGNED SERVER
65
RECEIVE PROBE REQUEST
70
TRANSMIT PROBE RESPONSE TO USER COMPUTER
75
RECEIVE PROBE RESPONSE
EXTRACT UNIQUE SERVER ADDRESS FROM PROBE
80
85
TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES TO AND FROM ASSIGNED SERVER
85
TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE TO AND FROM REMOTE COMPUTER
TO B (FIG. 5)
C

FIG. 2

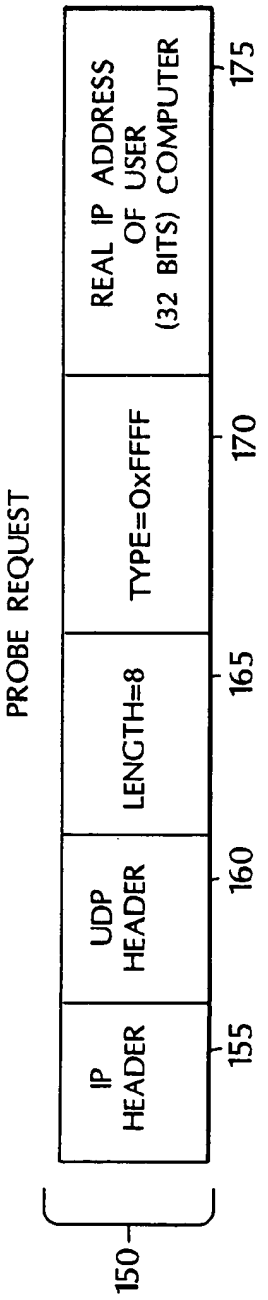
PROBE REQUEST
IP HEADER
UDP HEADER
LENGTH=8
TYPE=0xFFFF
REAL IP ADDRESS OF USER (32 BITS) COMPUTER
150
155
160
165
170
175

FIG. 3

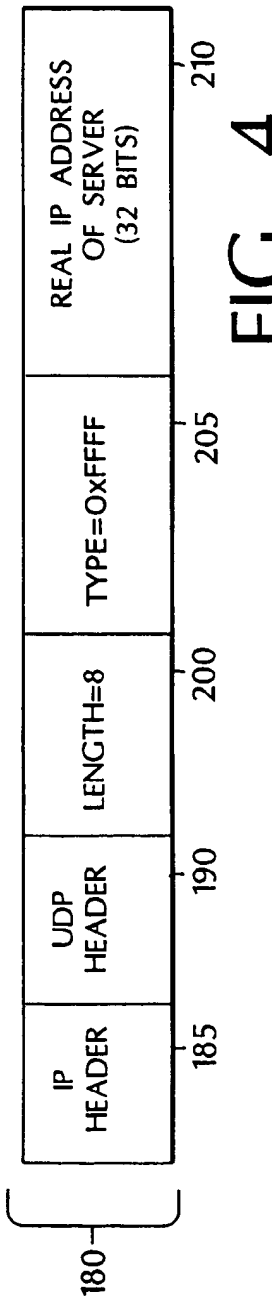
PROBE RESPONSE
IP HEADER
UDP HEADER
LENGTH=8
TYPE=0xFFFF
REAL IP ADDRESS OF SERVER (32 BITS)
180
185
190
200
205
210

FIG. 4

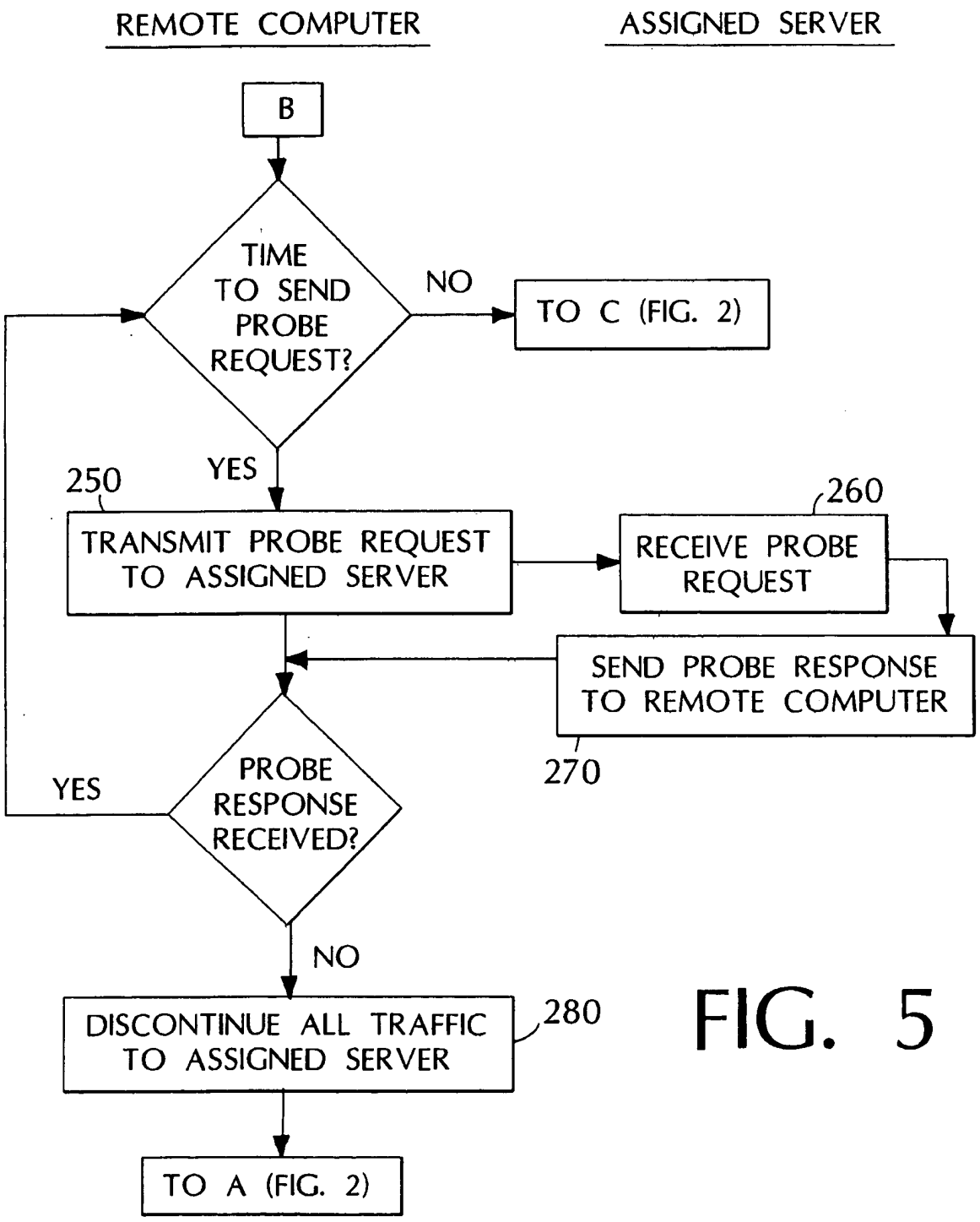
REMOTE COMPUTER
ASSIGNED SERVER
B
TIME TO SEND PROBE REQUEST?
NO
TO C (FIG. 2)
YES
250
TRANSMIT PROBE REQUEST TO ASSIGNED SERVER
260
RECEIVE PROBE REQUEST
SEND PROBE RESPONSE TO REMOTE COMPUTER
270
PROBE RESPONSE RECEIVED?
YES
NO
DISCONTINUE ALL TRAFFIC TO ASSIGNED SERVER
280
TO A (FIG. 2)

FIG. 5